



The London Gazette

EXTRAORDINARY.

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Whitehall, October 5, 1791.

THE Letters from the East Indies, of which the following are Copies, were this Day received by the Warren Hastings, one of the Company's Ships:

To the Honorable Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

HONORABLE SIRS,

I Shall not trouble your Honorable Court with an Explanation of the Nature of the incessant Exertions both of Body and Mind which are required by the various Duties of my present Situation; nor should I now have alluded to them, but that I am under the indispensable Necessity of stating them as the Cause of my being obliged, on this Occasion, instead of entering into a Detail of Particulars, to limit myself to a concise and general Account of our late Operations, and of my future Intentions.

Our Preparations for the Campaign having been completed at Madras, the Army marched from Vellore on the 5th of February; and, having reached Vellore on the 11th, we halted there Two Days, for the Purpose of drawing from thence a Supply to my Stock of Provisions, and an Addition that had been prepared to the Battering Train, and of receiving some Stores and recovered Men from Arnee.

I had, previous to my Arrival at Vellore, employed every Means in my Power to obtain accurate Descriptions of the different Passes that lead into the Mysore Country; and having seen sufficient Grounds to be confident that the Moogly Pass could easily be rendered practicable, I turned off to the Right at Vellore, and not only ascended the Pass without much Difficulty, but, by having taken a Route that Tippoo does not seem to have expected, I was also

lucky enough to be able to advance a considerable Distance into his Country before it was possible for him to give us the least Obstruction.

The Forts of Colar and Ouscottah lay in our Route to Bangalore, and surrendered to us without Resistance; but as neither of them were in a tenable Condition, nor at that Time of any Value to us, I left them unoccupied, after disarming and disarming their small Garrisons.

I arrived before Bangalore on the Afternoon of the 5th of March, and on the 6th the Engineers were employed in reconnoitring the Place both in the Morning and Evening: On their latter Excursion Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd, who escorted them with the whole Cavalry, discovered the Rear of Tippoo's Line of March, apparently in great Confusion, and unfortunately suffered himself to be tempted by the flattering Prospect of striking an important Blow, to deviate from the Orders he had received from me, and to attack the Enemy. His Success at first was great, but the Length and Ardor of the Pursuit threw his Squadrons into great Confusion. In this State they were charged by Tippoo's Cavalry, and being out of the Reach of all Support, they were obliged to retire with great Precipitation, and with the Loss of above 200 Men and near 300 Horses. Lieutenant-Colonel Floyd received a very severe Wound in the Face, from which, however, I have the Pleasure to add, that he is now perfectly recovered.

The ill Success of our Examination, the Fear of losing Time, and many other Circumstances, of which the Hopes of obtaining a Supply of Forage was not the least, induced me to determine immediately to attack the Fort from the Pettah Side. The Pettah was accordingly assaulted and carried on the Morning of the 7th; and the Siege of the Fort, which was rendered singularly arduous, not only by the Scarcity

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Forage, and Strength of its Works and Garrison, but also by the Presence of Tippoo and his whole Army, was happily terminated by an Assault on the Night of the 21st, in which the Kellidar, and a great Number of his Garrison, were put to the Sword, and our Loss, in Proportion to the Nature of the Enterprize, was extremely inconsiderable. I cannot, however, help expressing on this Occasion, my sincere Regret for the Death of that brave and valuable Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Moorhouse, who was killed at the Assault of the Pettah on the 7th of March.

I have not yet been able to obtain correct Lists of the Ordnance, or of the different Articles that were found in the Magazines of the Place; and I can therefore only say in general, that there were upwards of One Hundred serviceable Pieces of Ordnance, near Fifty of which were Brasses, a large Quantity of Grain, and an immense Depôt of Military Stores.

Although Tippoo approached our Position, and even cannonaded the Camp both on the 7th and 17th, yet on these Occasions, and on all others during the Siege, he took his Measures with so much Caution as to put it effectually out of my Power to force him to risk an Action; and on the Night of the Assault he retired, in great Haste, from the South Side of the Fortress, where he was then posted, immediately upon his being acquainted with its Fall. After giving some Repairs to the Breaches, making a Number of necessary Arrangements, and leaving the Train of heavy Artillery to be refitted during my Absence, I moved from Bangalore on the 28th, with the Design of securing a safe and speedy Junction with a large Body of Cavalry that the Nizam had promised to send to me, and of receiving a Reinforcement of Troops and a Supply of Provisions and Stores, which I had some Time before ordered to be in Readiness to join me, by the Way of Amboor, from the Carnatic, considering those as necessary preliminary Measures for enabling me to proceed to the Attack of Seringapatam; and I, at the same Time, communicated my Intentions to General Abercromby, and directed him to use every Exertion in his Power, that might be consistent with the Safety of the Corps under his Command, to prepare himself in the Manner that I preferred, to give me effectual Assistance when I should reach the Enemy's Capital.

Tippoo having made a Movement to the Westward on the same Day that I marched from the Neighbourhood of Bangalore, I fell in with his Rear at the Distance of about Eight or Nine Miles from that Place; but, from the Want of a sufficient Body of Cavalry, it was found impracticable, after a Pursuit of considerable Length, either to bring him to Action, or to gain any Advantage over him, except that of taking One Brass Gun, which, owing to its Carriage breaking down, he was obliged to leave upon the Road.

My first Object being to form a Junction with the Nizam's Cavalry, I made such Movements, or took such Positions, as I knew would effectually prevent Tippoo from intercepting them, or even from disturbing their March; but, although I was at great Pains to point out the Safety of the March to Rajah Teigewunt, and to encourage him to proceed, the Effects of my Recommendations and Requests were but slow; and, after Waste of Time, which, at this late Season of the Year, was invaluable, and which almost exhausted my Patience, the Junction was not made till the 13th Instant.

It is not easy to ascertain the Number of the Corps with Precision, but I suppose it to amount to Fifteen or Sixteen Thousand Horse; and, though they are extremely defective in almost every Point of Military Discipline, yet, as the Men are in general well mounted, and the Chiefs have given me the strongest Assurances of their Disposition to do every Thing in their Power to promote the Success of our Operations, I am in great Hopes that we shall derive material Advantage from their Assistance.

This Junction being accomplished, I marched on to effect my next Object without Loss of Time; and having arrived at my present Camp on the 18th, and ordered the most expeditious Measures to be taken for transporting the Stores from the Head of the Pass, I shall commence my March again to the Westward on the 22d, and, after calling at Bangalore for the heavy Artillery, I trust that I shall find it practicable to reach Seringapatam before the 12th of next Month.

No useful Purpose could be promoted by my enumerating the Difficulties which I have already encountered in carrying on the Operations of this Campaign, and it would be equally unprofitable to enlarge at present upon the Obstacles which I foresee to our future Progress; they are, however, of so weighty a Nature, that under different Circumstances I should undoubtedly act with more Caution, and defer the Attempt upon the Enemy's Capital till after the ensuing Rains; but, acquainted as I am with the unsettled Situation of political Affairs in Europe, and knowing that a procrastinated War would occasion almost certain Ruin to your Finances, I consider it as a Duty which I owe to my Station and to my Country to disregard the Hazard to which my own Military Reputation may be exposed, and to prosecute, with every Species of Precaution that my Judgment or Experience can suggest, the Plan which is most likely to bring the War to an early Decision.

I have, at the same Time, been the more encouraged to persevere in the Execution of my original Intentions, as both the Nizam and the Mahrattas have of late shewn an uncommon Alacrity in fulfilling their Engagements, which, by the smallest Appearance of Backwardness on our Part, would be immediately cooled; and which, I trust, will, in Addition to our own Efforts, essentially contribute to counteract many of the Disadvantages which the Difficulty of the March, the Risk of Scarcity of Provisions and Forage, and the Approach of the rainy Season, present against the Undertaking; and if those Obstacles can be overcome, the Capture of Seringapatam will probably, in its Consequences, furnish an ample Reward for our Labours.

A few Days after our Success at Bangalore, Tippoo repeated his Propositions to open a Negotiation for terminating our Differences; but whether with a sincere Desire to obtain Peace, or with the insidious Hopes of exciting Jealousies in our Allies, by inducing me to listen to his Advances, is not certain. The Line for my Conduct, however, was clear; and, conformable to our Treaties, I declined, in civil and moderate Terms, to receive a Person of Confidence, on his Part, to discuss the separate Interests of the Company; but informed him, that if he should think proper to make Propositions in Writing, for a general Accommodation with all the Members of the Confederacy, I should, after communicating with the other Powers, transmit our joint Sentiments upon them.

I shall refer you entirely at present to the Accounts that you will receive from the different Governments

ments of the Details of their respective Business, and shall only add, that the personal Attention that I have experienced from the Members of the Supreme Board, and the Zeal which they have manifested, since I left Calcutta, in promoting the Public Good, have given me very particular Satisfaction.

The Swallow Packet will remain in Readiness to be dispatched in August, or sooner, if it should be thought expedient; and I shall, by that Opportunity, have the Honor of writing fully to you on several of those Subjects, on which you must, no Doubt, be anxious to receive minute Information. I cannot, however, conclude this Letter without bearing the most ample Testimony to the Zeal and Alacrity which have been uniformly manifested by His Majesty's and the Company's Troops, in the Performance of the various Duties of Fatigue and Danger in the Course of this Campaign; and assuring you, that they are entitled to the most distinguished Marks of your Approbation.

I have the Honor to be, with the greatest Respect,
Honorable Sirs,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,
CORNWALLIS.

*Camp at Venkettigerry,
April 21, 1791.*

*Camp at Vencategerry, 24 Miles West of Amboor,
April 21, 1791.*

S I R,

I Should have had, on this Occasion, a particular Pleasure in communicating to you, for His Majesty's Information, a detailed Account of the Operations of the Army under my Command since the Opening of this Campaign; but the various Branches of Business, which require immediate Attention and Dispatch, engross so much of my Time in the Field, that I am under the unavoidable Necessity of postponing a Communication of that Nature to a future Opportunity: I shall, however, in the mean Time, chiefly rely for my Apology upon a Continuance of that gracious Indulgence from His Majesty, which I have so frequently experienced at his Hands.

The same Reasons have also obliged me to confine myself to a very concise Statement of the principal Occurrences, in my Letter to the Court of Directors of the East India Company; but, by the Means of that Letter, and the Copies of my Correspondence with the Residents at the Courts of Hydrabad and Poona, and of my late Letters to the Government of Fort St. George, which will no Doubt be transmitted to you from the India-House, you will have it in your Power to convey to His Majesty a general Knowledge of the present Situation of our Affairs in this Country; and you will have the Satisfaction to observe not only that our Success has already been considerable, but that we have a reasonable Prospect of being able to humble still further a Prince of very uncommon Ability, and of boundless Ambition, who had acquired a Degree of Power, in Extent of Territory, in Wealth, and in Forces, that threatened the Company's Possessions in the Carnatic, and those of all his other Neighbours, with imminent Danger.

Our Success at Bangalore has tended to establish, in the general Opinion of the Natives, the Superiority of the British Arms; and it has, in particular, made an Impression upon the Minds of our Allies, which, I am persuaded, will contribute to induce them to use vigorous Exertions in prosecuting the War to an honorable Conclusion.

At present we can only look for the speedy Accomplishment of that desirable Object by proceeding to attack the Enemy's Capital, which I clearly foresee will, from the near Approach of the Season of the periodical Rains, and the Danger of a Scarcity of Provisions and Forage for the large Bodies of Troops that are to be employed, be attended with so many Difficulties, that, upon any other Occasion, I should have thought it advisable to have deferred the Attempt till the End of the ensuing Monsoon.

Having, however, been informed of the critical Situation of political Affairs in Europe, and being sensible that the Finances of the Company require the Adoption of those Measures that are most likely to bring the Contest to an early Decision, I have thought it my Duty to hazard the Undertaking; and, having received the strongest Assurances of Exertions from the Chiefs of the Nizam's Cavalry that are now with me, and the Marattas having also promised an hearty Co-operation against the common Enemy, I am encouraged to entertain sanguine Hopes that all Obstacles will give Way to our Efforts, and that the Enterprize will succeed.

I have, on all Occasions, had the greatest Reason to be satisfied with the Behaviour of His Majesty's Troops serving with this Army; but the Effects of their Courage and Discipline were eminently conspicuous in the Assault of the Forts of Bangalore, and will ever reflect the highest Honor upon themselves and upon His Majesty's Service.

I am persuaded that the Zeal, which generally prevails in this Army to promote the Honor and Interests of Britain, has never been exceeded: But, amongst those Officers who have had an Opportunity to render distinguished Services, I must particularly mention Lieutenant-Colonel Maxwell and Major Skelly, the first having conducted the Assault which was entrusted to his Direction with great Spirit and Ability, and the latter having, on that Occasion, led the European Grenadiers and Light Infantry of the Army, and highly contributed, by his own animated Example, to their Success.

I likewise feel myself much indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel Stuart for the able Assistance which I constantly derive from his great Military Experience, and his Anxiety to promote, by every Means in his Power, the Good of the Service: And the friendly Support which I receive from General Medows must command my lasting Esteem and Gratitude.

I have the Honor to be,

S I R,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,
CORNWALLIS.

*Right Hon. W. W. Grenville,
One of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.*